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## EUGENE GRESSMAN: A STUDENT'S POINT OF VIEW\*

HARRIET GRANT†

It is difficult to know where to begin thanking Mr. Gressman—a thank you that comes from all the students and alumni who are fortunate enough to know him.

We can thank Mr. Gressman for sharing his practical experiences with students, for bringing those experiences to the classroom, and for teaching courses covering subjects in which he is a respected scholar.

His reputation in the legal community is impossible for students to overlook. Every time we walk into the library, as students and later as practitioners, we see his name on the spine of *Supreme Court Practice* and *Federal Practice and Procedure*. Every time we look in the *Index to Legal Periodicals* we see how prolific he has been.

These achievements, however, are *not* why I am here tonight. I am here because of an achievement that is not memorialized on the spine of any book in the library. It is an achievement that only his students know. And, it is an achievement that can only come from the heart: the heart of a caring professor whose office door is always open, whose calendar is always free for lunch appointments with students (as long as the lunch is at Breadman's Restaurant). That is what the students at Carolina needed, received, and appreciated. That is what Mr. Gressman has given us.

Everyone experienced some difficulties in law school, whether it be the stress of first year exams or the competitiveness of the job search. The students at Carolina . . . we were lucky. We could laugh when Mr. Gressman appeared at a final exam wearing a tee-shirt with the words "Mean Gene" on it. We could enjoy the warmth of a casual atmosphere in a law school course—a seminar taught at Mr. Gressman's home, beginning with a tour of the house and usually ending with a little wine.

We have tried to express our gratitude in the past with class gifts at the end of the semester whether it be champagne or a cake in celebration of Mr. Gressman's birthday. And, as alumni we continue to call Mr. Gressman for both legal insight and more important, friendship.

Tonight, we try to continue to express that gratitude. To that end, all I know how to say is: from all the students who were fortunate enough to sit in Mr. Gressman's classroom and from all those students who were even more fortunate to share thoughts, jokes, and lunches with Mr. Gressman outside the classroom—I would like to say, thank you Mr. Gressman.

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\* Address prepared for the University of North Carolina retirement dinner in honor of William Rand Kenan, Jr., Professor of Law Eugene Gressman, April 10, 1987.

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